

Assemblyman  
**PAUL KORETZ**

**Forty-second Assembly District**

*proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Legislature Passes Textbook Rental in Bipartisan Vote**

**Sacramento** - AB 2678, authored by Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood), has passed the California State Legislature with bipartisan support and now goes to the desk of Governor Schwarzenegger. The bill is sponsored by the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) and provides a roadmap for California public colleges and universities to establish textbook rental services as a means to reduce costs for students.

“Students are a captive customer base that is vulnerable to excessive profit-taking by publishers. The price of textbooks has increased much faster than inflation and faster than other publishing industries. AB 2678 clears a path for textbook rental services that can save students hundreds of dollars per year,” said Assemblyman Koretz.

AB 2678 outlines a process for establishing textbook rental services that requires sign-off from the student association, administrators, and faculty and also caps textbook rental fees at 50 percent of the cost of purchasing books. Textbook rental is currently in place at 20 U.S. colleges and universities. Rental programs typically cost students under \$250 annually and are financially self-sustaining.

A recent study of textbook pricing by CALPIRG found that students now spend nearly \$900 per year on textbooks and 60 percent of students are unable to find even one used textbook for their courses. Also passed by the Legislature today is AB 2477 (Liu) which calls on publishers and campus stakeholders to take steps to reduce the cost of college textbooks.

Merriah Fairchild, author of the CALPIRG textbook study was in Sacramento for the textbook votes. “The cost of textbooks has skyrocketed in recent years with growing numbers of students forced to share books, struggle for access to library copies, or simply go without. With the passage of AB 2678 and AB 2477, students and campus officials are better able to effectively reduce textbook costs,” said Fairchild.

Textbook rental programs rely on faculty participation in a process whereby the same books are used for a specified period of time, such as three semesters. Books are rented to students for a fee rather than sold, then students return the book at the end of the term. The Koretz bill guarantees students the right to purchase the books they rent and provides for financial safeguards for both the state and students.

“Textbook rental is a win-win proposition. AB 2678 has the support of several Republican legislators and presents the Governor with an opportunity to show students he has more to offer than fee hikes and tuition increases. This bill can lower costs for students and ensure text rental is smartly implemented from the get-go,” said Mr. Koretz.

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